

4/6/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR  
HAS COME, WEEK 33

TITLE: **ALL THE KING'S MEN, PART I**

TEXT: LUKE 6:12&13

INTRODUCTION: (1) **THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S**  
GRACE IS SEEN IN HIS CHOOSING THE  
UNDESERVING TO BE HIS PEOPLE AND THE  
UNQUALIFIED TO DO HIS WORK.

\* NOW SPECIFICALLY THIS MORNING I WANT TO  
**FOCUS ON THE LORD'S GRACE IN USING THE**  
UNQUALIFIED AND PEOPLE WHO FAIL HIM  
OFTEN TO DO HIS WORK.

\*\* AND I BRING THAT UP BECAUSE AS  
CHRISTIANS WE ARE TEMPTED TO BECOME  
DISCOURAGED AND DISHEARTENED WHEN OUR  
SPIRITUAL LIFE AND WITNESS SUFFER BECAUSE  
OF OUR SINS AND FAILURES.

\*\*\* AND SATAN ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCING US THAT THOSE SHORTCOMINGS RENDER US **USELESS TO GOD; BUT OUR LORD'S USE OF THE** APOSTLES TESTIFIES TO THE OPPOSITE. AND IN NO WAY IS **MY DESIRE TO MINIMIZE GOD'S HIGH** STANDARDS OF HOLINESS.

\*\*\*\* NOW WITH THAT SAID, THE APOSTLES DID NOT LEAD THE CHURCH IN TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN BECAUSE THEY WERE EXTRAORDINARILY TALENTED OR NATURALLY GIFTED.

(2) BUT BECAUSE OF AND IN SPITE OF THEIR HUMAN LIMITATIONS AND FAILURES - THEY SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO GOD, WHOSE **POWER IS PERFECTED IN MAN'S WEAKNESS,** QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:10 AND II CORINTHIANS 12:9&10.

\* NOW BECAUSE OF THAT, GOD ALMIGHTY, THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAS CHOSEN ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.

\*\* AND THE 12 APOSTLES ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES OF THAT.

\*\*\* FOR NONE OF THE 12 WERE PHARISEES, PRIESTS, RABBIS, LEVITES, SCRIBES OR SADDUCEES, THEY WERE NOT A PART OF THE RELIGIOUS ELITE.

\*\*\*\* NONE WERE RICH, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF LEVI OR MATTHEW WHO PROBABLY MADE A LOT OF MONEY AS A TAX COLLECTOR BEFORE HIS CONVERSION.

\*\*\*\* NONE OF THEM WERE SCHOLARS, HIGHLY EDUCATED OR A PART OF THE INTELLECTUALLY ELITE.

(3) INSTEAD THEY WERE UNEDUCATED AND UNTRAINED MEN ACCORDING TO ACTS 4:13 (QUOTE IT).

\* NOW THE NOTEWORTHY THING ABOUT THESE MEN, SPECIFICALLY PETER AND JOHN, WAS THEY SPENT TIME WITH JESUS.

\*\* BEYOND THAT, NONE OF THEM CAME FROM PRESTIGIOUS JOBS OR PLACES.

\*\*\* SEVERAL WERE FISHERMEN, ONE WAS A TAX COLLECTOR AND THEREFORE WAS VIEWED AS A TRAITOR TO THE JEWS, AND ANOTHER WAS A POLITICAL REVOLUTIONARY, AND ANOTHER WOULD BE A TRAITOR.

\*\*\*\* ALL WERE GALILEANS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JUDAS ISCARIOT, AND THE GALILEANS WERE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY THE MORE CULTURED JUDEANS.

(4) AND YET THE LIVES OF THESE MEN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JUDAS ISCARIOT WOULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

\* JESUS USED ORDINARY, COMMON, SIMPLE, DOWN TO EARTH PEOPLE TO FULFILL HIS MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM AND TO BE THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.

\*\* CHRIST USED COMMON MEN WHO HAD FROM HIM, AN UNCOMMON CALLING. THE KING JESUS CHRIST USED THESE ORDINARY MEN TO ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM.

**\*\*\* THUS I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, ALL THE KING'S MEN, PART I.**

**\*\*\*\* AND TODAY WE'LL LOOK AT THE SETTING OF OUR LORD SELECTING THESE MEN AND LORD WILLING NEXT WEEK WE'LL START TO LOOK AT THESE 12 MEN.**

(5) AND I HAVE JUST TWO MAIN POINTS TO GUIDE US TODAY IN OUR STUDY, NO. 1 THE COMMUNION OF JESUS WITH HIS FATHER IN PRAYER FOR DIRECTION IN CHOOSING THESE MEN, V. 12; AND NO. 2 THE CALL OF THESE MEN TO BE APOSTLES, V. 13.

\* AND WITH THOSE TWO POINTS AS MARKERS TO DIRECT US, LOOK AT V. 12 PLEASE WHERE **WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE COMMUNION.**

I. THE COMMUNION, (READ V. 12)

A. NOW AT THE BEGINNING OF V. 12, THE WORD TRANSLATED DAYS OR TIME, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, DOES NOT REFER TO A SPECIFIC DAY, WEEK OR MONTH, IT DOES NOT REFER TO CALENDAR TIME BUT IS A GENERAL TERM FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, AN ERA, A SEASON OF TIME.

\* AND SPECIFICALLY THIS WORD DESCRIBES THE **TIME OF CHRIST'S GROWING CONFLICT WITH THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES** THAT HAS BEEN ESCALATING, THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE UP TO THIS POINT.

\*\* AND HENCE JESUS, IN VIEW OF THIS MOUNTING HOSTILITY, WHICH WOULD LEAD TO HIS DEATH ULTIMATELY, **DETERMINED IN GOD'S** PERFECT TIMING THE DAY, THE TIME HAD COME TO CHOOSE THE MEN THAT WOULD CARRY ON HIS MINISTRY AFTER DEATH.

\*\*\* JESUS KNEW THAT THESE MEN WOULD NEED TO BE WELL PREPARED, THAT THEY NEEDED INTENSE PREPARATION AND TRAINING TO BE ABLE TO PASS THE BATON ON TO THEM AS HIS APOSTLES, AS HIS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

\*\*\*\* **THUS RECOGNIZING GOD'S TIMETABLE AND** RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF HIS CHOICE OF THESE MEN, WHAT DOES JESUS DO?

1. HE PRAYS. AND DOES HE PRAY A TWO MINUTE PRAYER FOR DIRECTION? DOES HE UTTER A VAIN REPETITION SHORT PRAYER TO HIS FATHER?

\* NO! HE GOES OFF TO A MOUNTAIN ALONE, AND SPENDS THE WHOLE NIGHT IN PRAYER, IN COMMUNION WITH HIS FATHER.

\*\* AND WHY? THE APOSTLES WOULD BECOME THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH, THE **FOUNDATION OF CHRIST'S WORK IN THE WORLD**, AND THEREFORE IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR JESUS TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT MEN, SO HE PRAYED.

\*\*\* AND NO. 1 HE PRAYED PRIVATELY, GOING UP TO A MOUNTAIN ALONE TO HAVE COMMUNION WITH HIS FATHER.

\*\*\*\* NO. 2 HE PRAYED FERVENTLY, SPENDING THE WHOLE NIGHT IN PRAYER.

2. AND NO. 3 HE PRAYED DEPENDENTLY, ASKING HIS FATHER TO HELP HIM.

\* AND WE KNOW THIS FOR LATER IN JOHN 17:6 JESUS SAID IN HIS HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER TO **HIS FATHER, THE REAL LORD'S PRAYER, JESUS SAID:**



**\*\* "I HAVE MANIFESTED YOUR NAME TO THE MEN WHOM YOU GAVE ME OUT OF THE WORLD; THEY WERE YOURS AND YOU GAVE THEM TO ME, AND THEY HAVE KEPT YOUR WORD."**

**\*\*\* AND IN ESSENCE JESUS CALLED THE MEN WHO WERE HIS FATHER'S CHOICE.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR JESUS IN HIS COMING TO EARTH, HIS FIRST ADVENT, CAME DOWN TO DO HIS FATHER'S WILL, QUOTE JOHN 6:38.**

3. AND JESUS IN HIS HUMANITY, MOST OF THE TIME SET ASIDE HIS INDEPENDENT USE OF HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES ACCORDING TO PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8.

**\* AND THEREFORE SOUGHT THE FATHER'S WILL IN CHOOSING THE 12 APOSTLES AND PICKED THE 12 HIS FATHER WANTED HIM TO PICK.**

**\*\* AND YOU MAY BE THINKING, RAY, EVEN JUDAS ISCARIOT?**

\*\*\* AND MY ANSWER IS YES, EVEN JUDAS ISCARIOT WHO WOULD BETRAY CHRIST. THIS WAS NOT A MISTAKE.

\*\*\*\* FOR THE BETRAYAL BY JUDAS ISCARIOT OF **JESUS WAS A PART OF THE FATHER'S PLAN FOR** THE DEATH OF HIS SON AND THUS THE SALVATION OF HIS PEOPLE.

4. AND JUDAS ISCARIOT WOULD FULFILL SCRIPTURE IN HIS BETRAYAL OF CHRIST. FOR **JOHN 17:12 SAYS: "WHILE I WAS WITH THEM, I WAS KEEPING THEM IN YOUR NAME WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME; AND I GUARDED THEM AND NOT ONE OF THEM PERISHED BUT THE SON OF PERDITION, SO THAT THE SCRIPTURE WOULD BE FULFILLED."**

\* AND WE NEED TO BE REMINDED THAT GOD IS EVER AND ALWAYS ON THE THRONE, RULING AND REIGNING FROM HEAVEN ABOVE, WITH WISDOM, POWER AND LOVE, AND HIS PLAN IS UNFOLDING, SO NOTHING, I REPEAT NOTHING IS OUT OF CONTROL.

\*\* AND JUDAS ISCARIOT WAS A PART OF THE PLAN. AND JESUS FULFILLED THE PLAN BY CHOOSING JUDAS AS AN APOSTLE, AS HE PRAYED TO HIS FATHER ALL NIGHT.

\*\*\* AND BELOVED, IN APPLICATION, CERTAINLY **WE ARE REMINDED BY CHRIST'S EXAMPLE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO SEEK OUR FATHER'S WILL IN THE THINGS WE DO, AND NOT ACT IN SELF-WILL TO DO OUR WILL OR TO ACT IMPULSIVELY.**

\*\*\*\* AND CHRISTIANS BUY CARS WITHOUT PRAYING, THEY BUY APPLIANCES WITHOUT PRAYING, THEY MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT SCHOOL AND SCHOOLING WITHOUT PRAYING AND BUYING AND SELLING A HOUSE, MOVING AND EVEN A CHURCH OR A JOB WITHOUT PRAYING.

5. AND HOW FOOLISH IS THAT?

\* BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE LEARN FROM JESUS, OUR GREAT NEED OF PRAYER IN KNOWING AND DOING HIS WILL. MAY WE PRAY FIRST, AND MAY WE PRAY FERVENTLY AND DEPENDENTLY, CORPORATELY AND PRIVATELY AS JESUS DID.

\*\* JESUS COMMUNED WITH HIS FATHER TO MAKE THE CORRECT DECISION TO WHOM HE WOULD COMMISSION OR CALL AS HIS APOSTLES.

**\*\*\* WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY,**  
THE CALL, LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.

## II. THE CALL, (READ V. 13)

A. NOW AFTER PRAYING ALL NIGHT, WHEN DAY COMES, JESUS KNOWS WHAT HIS FATHER WANTS HIM TO DO.

\* SO HE CALLS HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM.

\*\* AND THE WORD DISCIPLE LIT. MEANS A LEARNER, A PUPIL, A FOLLOWER, A STUDENT.

\*\*\* AND AT THIS PARTICULAR POINT OF HIS MINISTRY THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOLLOWING JESUS, FOR HIS MIRACLES AND TEACHING; HOWEVER, NOT ALL, OF COURSE WERE GENUINE FOLLOWERS.

\*\*\*\* FOR UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE HIGH DEMANDS OF TRULY FOLLOWING CHRIST, **"MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WITHDREW AND WERE NOT WALKING WITH JESUS ANYMORE"** ACCORDING TO JOHN 6:66.

1. BUT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, THERE WERE MANY DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY FOR THE TEXT DOES NOT SAY, BUT **FROM JESUS' POPULARITY AT THIS POINT, A GOOD NUMBER.**

\* AND OF THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELING WITH HIM AT THIS TIME, JESUS CALLS THEM TO HIM, AND FROM THIS GROUP, HE WILL CHOOSE 12 OF THEM.

\*\* AND I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE WORD **CHOSE HERE. FOR NONE OF CHRIST'S DISCIPLES** APPLIED FOR THE JOB, NONE OF THE 12 HAD SOUGHT THIS APPOINTMENT.

\*\*\* AND JESUS WILL SAY TO THESE 12 MEN IN JOHN 15:16 THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM)

\*\*\*\* NOW MY POINT FROM EMPHASIZING JOHN 15:16 AND THE WORD CHOSE IS TO DECLARE TO YOU THAT THIS CHOOSING WAS SOVEREIGN ELECTION, THESE MEN WERE DIVINELY CHOSEN.

2. IN FACT, THE GREEK WORD CHOSE USED HERE IN V. 13 IS THE SAME GREEK VERB USED IN I CORINTHIANS 1:27&28, WHERE PAUL WAS INSPIRED TO SAY: (QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 1:26-30)

\* NOW THIS SAME GREEK VERB IS ALSO USED IN **EPHESIANS 1:4 WHERE IT SAYS: "JUST AS HE** CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE WOULD BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM. IN LOVE"

\*\* AND MY POINT IS THE APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST DID NOT CHOOSE TO BE APOSTLES, THEY DID NOT VOLUNTEER, THEY WERE ELECTED, CHOSE, PICKED BY SOVEREIGN ELECTION.

\*\*\* FOR WHAT WAS IMPORTANT ABOUT THEM WAS NOT THEIR CREDENTIALS, BUT THE CALLING THEY RECEIVED BY THE SOVEREIGN ELECTION OF GOD.

\*\*\*\* **AND MOST PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM** WITH THIS SOVEREIGN UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION WHEN IT COMES TO THE APOSTLES.

3. AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE NO PROBLEMS **WITH GOD'S SOVEREIGN ELECTION OF ISRAEL AS** HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE IN THE O.T.

\* FOR THE LORD GOD SAYS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN DEUTERONOMY 7:7&8A THESE WORDS:

V. 7 – THE LORD DID NOT SET HIS LOVE ON YOU NOR CHOOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE MORE IN NUMBER THAN ANY OF THE PEOPLES, FOR YOU WERE THE FEWEST OF ALL PEOPLES,

V. 8A – BUT BECAUSE THE LORD LOVED YOU AND KEPT THE OATH WHICH HE SWORE TO YOUR FOREFATHERS.

\*\* AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND, THE CHOOSING OF ISRAEL AS A HOLY NATION SET APART FOR GOD **WAS GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE AND HIS FAITHFULNESS** TO THE PROMISES HE HAD MADE TO THE PATRIARCHS, NOT IN ANY MERIT OR FORESEEN GOODNESS IN ISRAEL, OR THEIR NUMBER.

\*\*\* AND MOST PEOPLE ACCEPT THAT GOD SOVEREIGNLY CHOSE ISRAEL.



\*\*\*\* AND MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE REALITY AND TRUTH THAT GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE US THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS THAT WE HAVE AT SALVATION JUST AS HE WILLED, AS HE SOVEREIGNLY DECIDED AND CHOSE WHICH GIFTS WE WOULD HAVE IN SERVING IN THE BODY, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 12:7&11&13.

4. NOW LET ME SUMMARIZE, GOD SOVEREIGNLY CHOSE OUR GIFTS, ISRAEL AND THE APOSTLES, IT WAS ALL HIS CHOICE, AND NO PROBLEM TO LET GOD BE GOD IN THESE AREAS.

\* **HOWEVER, WHEN IT COMES TO GOD'S** SOVEREIGN ELECTION OF CHRISTIANS FOR SALVATION, THERE IS A LOT OF PUSH BACK. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT, I AT ONE TIME PUSHED BACK HARD.

\*\* **BUT HOW GLORIOUS IT IS TO REST IN GOD'S** JUSTICE AND AMAZING GRACE TO SEE THAT HE IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH,

AS EPHESIANS 1:4-6 SAYS:

V. 4 - JUST AS HE CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE WOULD BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM. IN LOVE

V. 5 - HE PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION AS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE KIND INTENTION OF HIS WILL,

V. 6 - TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHICH HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN THE BELOVED.

\*\*\* AND BELOVED GOD IN HIS AMAZING GRACE CHOSE TO SAVE SOME BY NOTHING FORESEEN IN THEM BUT ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE RATHER THAN DAMN EVERYONE AND GIVE EVERYONE WHAT THEY DESERVE.

5. AS ROMANS 11:5-7 SAYS:

V. 5 - IN THE SAME WAY THEN, THERE HAS ALSO COME TO BE AT THE PRESENT TIME A REMNANT **ACCORDING TO GOD'S** GRACIOUS CHOICE.

V. 6 – BUT IF IT IS BY GRACE, IT IS NO LONGER ON THE BASIS OF WORKS, OTHERWISE GRACE IS NO LONGER GRACE.

V. 7 – WHAT THEN? WHAT ISRAEL IS SEEKING, IT HAS NOT OBTAINED, BUT THOSE WHO WERE CHOSEN OBTAINED IT, AND THE REST WERE HARDENED.

\*\* TITUS 1:1&2 SAYS:

V. 1 – PAUL, A BOND-SERVANT OF GOD AND AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST, FOR THE FAITH OF THOSE CHOSEN OF GOD AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH WHICH IS ACCORDING TO GODLINESS,

V. 2 – IN THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH GOD, WHO CANNOT LIE, PROMISED LONG AGES AGO.

\*\*\* AND LASTLY I PETER 2:9 SAYS: BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY **NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN** POSSESSION, SO THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM WHO HAS CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT.

\*\*\*\* NOW MY POINT IS NOT TO PREACH A MESSAGE ON UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION (ALTHOUGH I WOULD LOVE TO DO THAT), BUT FOR YOU TO SEE THAT ALL ELECTION IS UNCONDITIONAL BY CHOOSING THE 12, ISRAEL, OUR GIFTS AND OUR SALVATION.

6. AND THE IMPORTANCE IS GOD THEN RECEIVES ALL THE GLORY, HE IS THE HUB OF IT ALL, HE IS LIFTED UP, HIS GRACE IS MAGNIFIED, AND PUT IN THE SPOTLIGHT, AND OUR LIFE BECOMES MORE THEOCENTRIC THAN MAN CENTERED. HIS WILL IS SUPREME AND NOT OURS, AND HE IS EXALTED, QUOTE ROMANS 11:36.

\* NOW TWO LAST THINGS BEFORE I WRAP UP V. 13.

\*\* NO. 1, HOW MANY APOSTLES DID GOD CHOOSE? 12 OF THEM ACCORDING TO V. 13 OF OUR TEXT.

\*\*\* AND THAT THE LORD CHOSE 12 MEN IS NOT RANDOM BECAUSE THAT NUMBER WAS SYMBOLIC OF THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

\*\*\*\* AND THE NUMBER 12 IS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ADDITION OF MATTHIAS TO TAKE JUDAS **ISCARIOT'S PLACE IN ACTS 1:23-26.**

7. NOW BEYOND THAT, JOHN MACARTHUR SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY IN LUKE 6-10 AND I **QUOTE: "SINCE ISRAEL AND ITS LEADERS WERE** APOSTATE, THE 12 WERE TO SERVE AS THE LEADERS OF THE NEW, TRUE ISRAEL OF GOD – THE REDEEMED, BELIEVING REMNANT.

\* JESUS MADE THAT CONNECTION CLEAR IN LUKE 22:29&30 WHEN HE TOLD THE 12 THAT THEY WOULD REIGN OVER ISRAEL IN THE **MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: "JUST AS MY FATHER HAS GRANTED ME A KINGDOM, I GRANT THAT YOU MAY EAT AND DRINK AT MY TABLE IN MY KINGDOM, AND YOU WILL SIT ON THRONES JUDGING THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL."** (END QUOTE)

\*\* AND THEN LAST AS FAR AS THE 12 IS CONCERNED, IN THE NEW JERUSALEM IN REVELATION 21:14, THE WALL OF THIS CITY HAS **"12 FOUNDATION STONES AND ON THEM WERE THE 12 NAMES OF THE 12 APOSTLES OF THE LAMB."**

\*\*\* SO THE NUMBER 12 IS NOT RANDOM, BUT SIGNIFICANT.

\*\*\*\* AND THEN LASTLY IN V. 13, THESE 12 MEN ARE NAMED, LIT. DESIGNATED AS APOSTLES.

8. AND THE WORD APOSTLE REFERS TO A MESSENGER, AMBASSADOR OR REPRESENTATIVE INVESTED WITH THE FULL AUTHORITY OF THE ONE WHO WOULD SEND THEM WHICH WOULD BE JESUS.

\* THEY WOULD BE SENT OUT ON A MISSION TO ULTIMATELY REPRESENT JESUS CHRIST WITH HIS AUTHORITY TO ACT ON HIS BEHALF, AND THEY WOULD DO THAT AS JESUS ASCENDED AND THEY BECAME THE FOUNDATION OF HIS CHURCH FULFILLING HIS PLAN.

IN SUMMATION AS I FINISH TODAY: 3 APPLICATIONS: NO. 1 OUR LORD USED THE APOSTLES IN PROFOUND WAYS AND HE WILL USE US IN PROFOUND WAYS, MEANING ITS NOT NATURAL ABILITY, BUT AVAILABILITY.

\* FOR WHEN GOD CALLS US TO SALVATION, HE ALSO PROVIDES THE GIFTS TO CARRY OUT OUR CALLING. HE EMPOWERS US THROUGH HIS SPIRIT TO SERVE HIM.

**\*\* OSWALD CHAMBERS SAID AND I QUOTE: "GOD CAN ACHIEVE HIS PURPOSE EITHER THROUGH THE ABSENCE OF HUMAN POWER AND RESOURCES OR THE ABANDONMENT OF RELIANCE ON THEM. ALL THROUGH HISTORY GOD HAS CHOSEN AND USED NOBODIES BECAUSE THEIR UNUSUAL DEPENDENCE ON HIM MADE POSSIBLE THE UNIQUE DISPLAY OF HIS POWER AND GRACE. HE CHOSE AND USED SOMEBODIES ONLY WHEN THEY RENOUNCED DEPENDENCE ON THEIR NATURAL ABILITIES AND RESOURCES." (END QUOTE)**

\*\*\* AND BELOVED, WE ARE NOBODIES LIKE THE APOSTLES, BUT THROUGH **GOD'S POWER AND GRACE** THEY BECAME SOMEBODIES SERVING HIM.

\*\*\*\* SO **IT'S NOT ABILITY BUT AVAILABILITY** AND HUMILITY THAT ENABLES US TO BE USED BY OUR LORD. MAY OUR DESIRE BE, LORD HELP ME TO BE A NOBODY TELLING EVERYBODY ABOUT SOMEBODY THAT CAN SAVE ANYBODY.



(2) NO. 2 WE SEE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF **PRAYER IN JESUS' LIFE. AND MY APPLICATION** IS WHAT FOLLY IF WE FRAME OUR LIVES WITH PRAYER AS WINDOW DRESSING, BUT DO NOT REALLY PRAY.

\* AND WHAT ARROGANCE AND PRIDE TO **UNDERSTAND JESUS' NECESSITY OF PRAYER** BUT REJECT IT FOR OURSELVES.

\*\* MAY OUR PRAYERS NOT BE OBLIGATORY OR ROUTINE PRAYER, BUT DEPENDENT PRAYER AS **WE SEEK JESUS' FACE AND WILL.**

\*\*\* NO. 3 WHEN WE SEE SOVEREIGN GRACE IN HIS SELECTION AND ELECTION, IT TRULY MAKES GRACE AMAZING AND MOTIVATES US EVEN MORE TO WORSHIP, SERVE AND BE FILLED WITH THANKSGIVING.

\*\*\*\* **MAY GOD'S SOVEREIGN SAVING GRACE** BE AMAZING THAT HE WOULD SAVE WRETCHES **LIKE US. (LET'S PRAY)**